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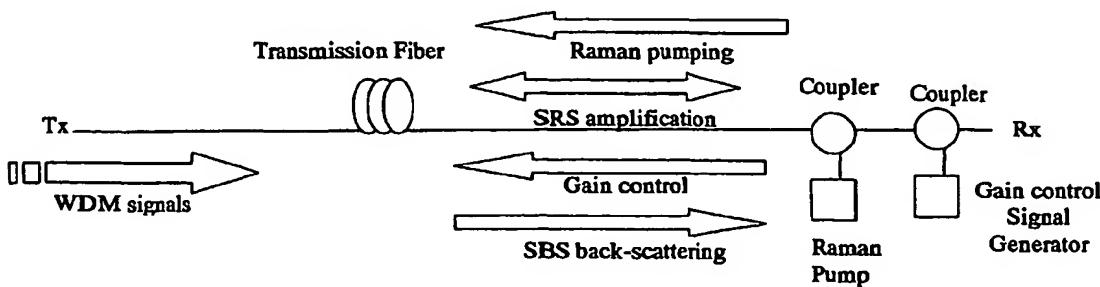
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(54) Title: OPTICAL SYSTEM



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(57) Abstract: A means and method for controlling the gain of a optical amplifier receiving one or more optical input signal channels has a source for generating a gain control signal, input to the optical amplifier at the opposite end to the input signal channels. The gain control signal is generated at a power level that produces stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) in the optical amplifier.